

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A receiver comprising:

a receiving section for receiving a first communication signal through a first communication system, the first communication signal including a plurality of contents with corresponding content identifiers, the first communication signal further including limitation information for a particular content, wherein the limitation information differs from the content identifier corresponding to the particular content;

a transmitting and receiving section requesting a transmission of a second communication signal containing release information and receiving said second communication signal through a second communication system enabling bi-directional communications;

an operation section through which a user designates one of the content identifiers;

a matching detection section for making a judgment as to whether or not said release information matches said limitation information when the user designates the content identifier for the particular content; and

an output section configured to prevent normal outputting of at least one portion of said particular content when a match is not detected between said release information and said limitation information, and to output said particular content normally when a match is detected between said release information and said limitation information;

wherein said first communication signal contains transmission source information for specifying a transmission source in order to obtain said release information that matches said limitation information corresponding to said contents constituted by said first communication

signal, and

wherein said receiver receives said second communication signal automatically by obtaining said transmission source information contained in said first communication signal.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Withdrawn) The receiver according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storing section for storing said release information and discrimination information for discriminating said contents,

wherein said receiver receives said contents corresponding to said discrimination information stored in said storage section as said first communication signal, and, outputs said contents normally when said release information stored in said storage section matches said limitation information corresponding to said contents.

4. (Withdrawn) The receiver according to claim 3, further comprising an accumulation section for accumulating said first communication signal.

5. (Withdrawn) The receiver according to claim 4, wherein said storage section stores said first communication signal on condition that said contents corresponding to said discrimination information stored in said storage section as said first communication signal.

6. (Withdrawn) The receiver according to claim 5, wherein said storage section stores

said first communication signal on additional condition that said release information stored in said storage section matches said limitation information corresponding to said contents.

7. (Previously Presented) The receiver according to claim 1, wherein said limitation information is multiplexed with said contents and said transmission source information in said first communication signal.

8. (Original) The receiver according to claim 1, wherein said output section indicates that said communication is being carried out through said second communication system upon request and receipt of said second communication signal.

9. (Original) The receiver according to claim 1, wherein said contents include video data.

10. (Original) The receiver according to claim 1, wherein said contents include music data.

11. (Original) The receiver according to claim 1, wherein said contents include program data.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~distribution~~ method of distributing release information comprising:

~~transmitting a communication signal through a first communication system to a receiver;~~

~~the communication signal including a plurality of contents with corresponding content identifiers, the communication signal further including limitation information for a particular content, wherein the limitation information differs from the content identifier of the particular content; and~~

distributing release information to the receiver, the release information matching the limitation information included in a communication signal, said communication signal further including a plurality of contents with corresponding content identifiers, the limitation information for a particular content differing from the content identifier of the particular content, said communication signal being ~~that is transmitted to~~ along with the plurality of contents to the receiver through ~~the~~ a first communication system,

wherein said release information is distributed to the receiver through a second communication system enabling bi-directional communications,

wherein the communication signal transmitted through the first communication system further includes a transmission source information for specifying a transmission source of said release information,

~~wherein the distributing step is performed in response to the receiver establishing bi-directional communications with the transmission source through the second communication system based on the transmission source information, and requesting the release information from the transmission source via the established bi-directional communications, and~~

wherein, in response to a user of the receiver designating the content identifier of the particular content, the receiver is configured to prevent normal outputting of at least one portion of the particular content until the receiver detects a match between the release information and

the limitation information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing a plurality of contents, comprising:
~~establishing communications with a receiver through a first communication system; and~~
distributing said plurality of contents along with corresponding content identifiers through ~~the~~ a first communication system to ~~the~~ a receiver, wherein said plurality of contents are supplied together with limitation information for a particular content and transmission source information for specifying a transmission source for a second communication system that enables bi-directional communications ~~and with limitation information,~~

~~wherein the receiver is configured to use the transmission source information to establish bi-directional communications with the transmission source via the second communication system, and request release information from the transmission source via the established bi-directional communications;~~

and wherein, in response to a user of the receiver designating the content identifier of the particular content, the receiver is configured to prevent normal outputting of the particular content until the receiver detects that the release information, which is obtained from said transmission source through the second communication system, matches the limitation information.

15. (Previously Presented) The distribution method of contents according to claim 14, wherein said contents are multiplexed with said limitation information and said transmission source information.

16. (New) The distribution method according to claim 12, wherein the distribution of said release information is executed in response to a predetermined request.